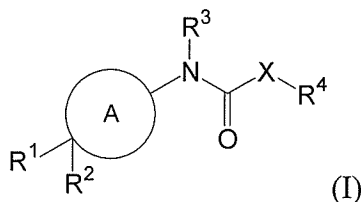
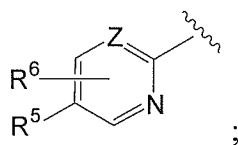


**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein  $R^1$  represents



$R^5$  represents a hydroxy group or an alkylsulfonylamino group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

$R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or, when Z represents a carbon atom and  $R^6$  is ortho to Z,  $R^6$  and Z taken together may form a fused phenyl group or a saturated or partially unsaturated cyclic ring having from 4 to 7 carbon atoms;

Z represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

$R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group or  $R^2$  forms a covalent bond with ring A:

$R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms:

A represents a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or an heterocyclic group having from 4 to 8 atoms which consists of at least one carbon atom and from 1 to 2 nitrogen atoms wherein the substituent is at least one group selected from alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or oxo groups.

~~a cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms or a heterocyclic group having from 4 to 10 atoms;~~

X represents a covalent bond, an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an

alkenylene group having from 2 to 3 carbon atoms, a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, imino, imino substituted with an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a sulfonyl group, a cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms or a heterocyclic group having from 4 to 10 atoms;

R<sup>4</sup> represents an aryl group having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 10 atoms;

said alkylene groups, alkenylene groups, heteroalkylene groups, cycloalkylene groups and heterocyclic groups are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ;

said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\beta$ ;

said substituents  $\alpha$  are selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cyano groups, alkanoylamino groups having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, oxo groups or aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms defined above;

said substituents  $\beta$  are selected from the atom consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkylthio groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyl groups having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, cyano groups, aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms defined above or heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms defined above;

with the proviso that said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms in said substituents  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are not substituted by an aryl group having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms or heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

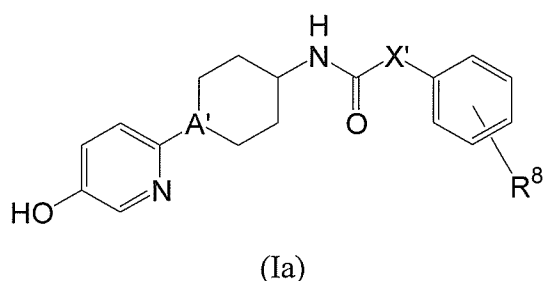
2. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein:

Z represents a carbon atom;

R<sup>5</sup> represents a hydroxy group; and

R<sup>6</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

3. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.
4. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a cyclohexyl group, a cyclohexenyl group or a piperidinyl group.
7. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a cyclohexyl group.
8. (Currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom or an oxygen atom.
9. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom.
10. (Original) A compound of formula (Ia)



wherein

A' represents CH, C(OH), or N;

X' represents ethylene, oxymethylene, methyleneoxy, or methylenethio; and

R<sup>8</sup> represents one or two groups independently selected from hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and halogen atoms or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents a phenyl group, optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms or alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.
12. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from:
  - N*-[*cis*-4-Hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;
  - 3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
  - N*-[*cis*-4-Hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide;
  - N*-[*trans*-4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;
  - N*-[*trans*-4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;
  - 3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;

*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-(4-methylphenyl)propanamide;  
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;  
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;  
3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;  
*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-2-(phenylthio)acetamide;  
3-(4-ethylphenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;  
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;  
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;  
3-(4-methylphenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;  
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methylpropanamide;  
*N*-[4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohex-3-en-1-yl]-3-phenylpropanamide;  
2-fluorobenzyl;  
[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]methylcarbamate;  
benzyl [*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]methylcarbamate;  
3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[1-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide; and  
*N*-[1-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-3-(4-methylphenyl)propanamide;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of pain, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
14. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises administering to

said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of pain, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
16. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.